



Resources

Irrigation for Lawns and Garden – Georgia Cooperative Extension Service

[pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/
pubs/pdf/B894.pdf](https://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/pdf/B894.pdf)

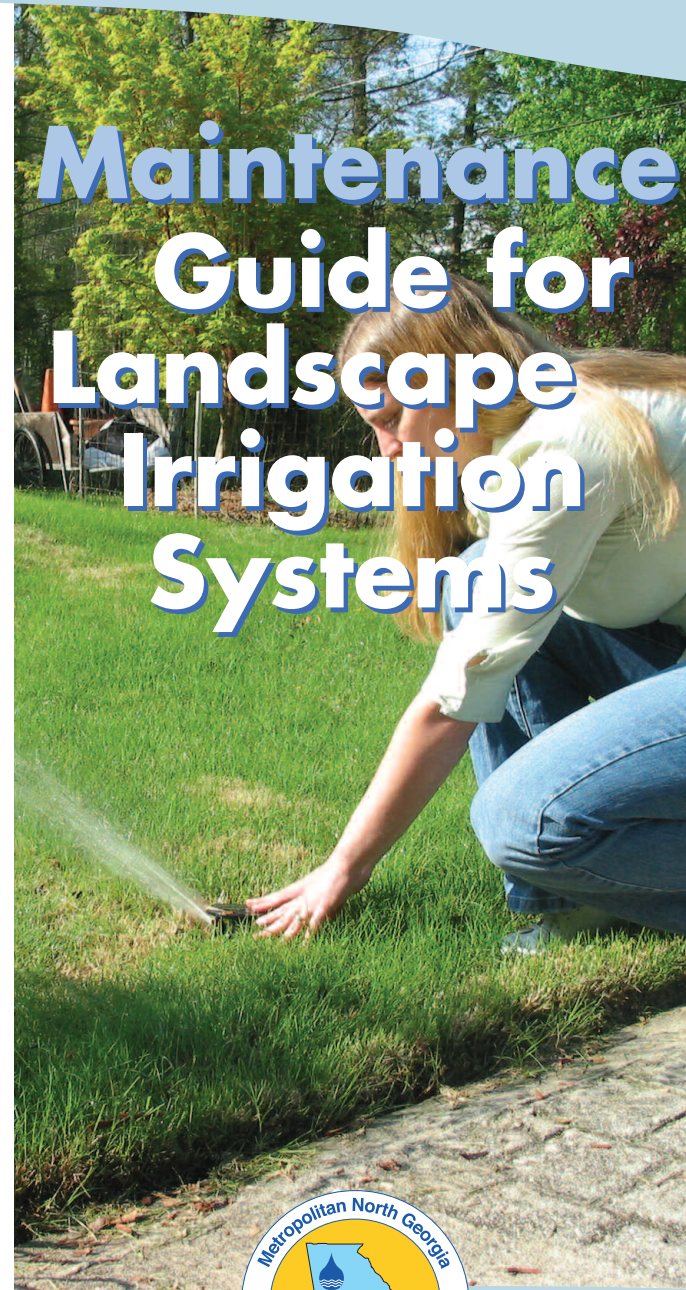
Irrigation Design Tips – Water Use It Wisely

[www.wateruseitwisely.com/outdoor/
irrigation_systems/index.shtml](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/outdoor/irrigation_systems/index.shtml)



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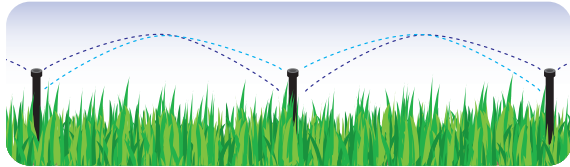
A well-maintained landscape irrigation system is a water-efficient irrigation system.

Also, the majority of irrigation problems are maintenance-related. The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District has prepared this guide for maintaining your irrigation system.



Source: UGA Extension Service

Uniform System Coverage



Head to Head uniform system coverage

1. To prevent under or over-watering, make sure your sprinkler heads are spaced uniformly. The spray should barely reach the next sprinkler head for head-to head coverage. Use part or half-circle sprinkler heads for corners to prevent watering pavement.



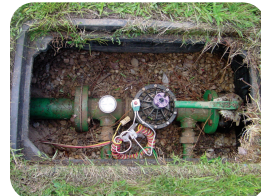
Sprinkler heads are only directed towards grass so that the pavement is not being watered.

2. Make sure your sprinkler heads, when extended, rise above the height of the grass for uniform coverage. Use taller heads in flower and shrub beds.
3. Uneven sprinkler head sprays within a zone can be a result of pressure problems. Make sure all sprinkler heads in a zone have the same precipitation rate. If problems persist, have a irrigation professional check the system's design for water pressure and uniformity problems.

Annual System Check

Before running your system in the spring...

1. Clean valve boxes and rain sensor of dirt and debris. Check to make sure rain sensor is working properly.



Valve box

Source: Hydro Environmental Inc.



Rain sensor

Photo courtesy of James Phillips

2. Inspect and clean filters. Filters are usually located near where the water exits the house. To clean out sediment, open the flush valve at bottom of the filter and turn on the water for 1 minute (a). To clean sediment screen, turn the water off, remove filter body and spray with hose (b).



a



b

3. Flush your system. Remove the last sprinkler head in each line and let the water run for a few minutes to flush out any dirt and debris. Replace the sprinkler heads and turn the system on, running one valve at a time.
4. Check your timer. Make sure that your system runs for the scheduled amount of time. Set timer to comply with watering restrictions. If applicable, replace the battery.



Automatic Control Timer

Photo courtesy of Tampa Bay Water

Check your irrigation manual for details for your system.

Regular Maintenance

Check your system once a month. *Observation is the key to water savings.*

- Look for signs of under-watering or over-watering such as brown spots and areas that are greener or consistently wet and muddy. Adjust for uniformity.



Uneven application

Source: Mike Clark, Johnson & Associates

- Check for blocked spray streams and check the position of the sprinklers. Adjust sprinkler heads that are tilted, blocked by grass and plants or even buried.



Source: Hydro Environmental Inc.

Sprinkler head is buried and can not pop up to properly water the lawn

- Check the valves, sprinkler heads, nozzles and emitters for obvious problems such as clogged or misaligned heads, bubbling and misting. Replace those that are broken or cracked.
- Look for pinched or broken tubing and straighten or replace it.
- Cap sprinkler heads that are no longer needed in order to prevent system leakage.

Also, periodically have your system checked by a professional.



Source: Hydro Environmental Inc.



Source: Mike Clark, Johnson & Associates

Improperly functioning rotor sprinkler head



Properly functioning rotor sprinkler head

Winterization

1. Turn off water supply at the main valve.
2. Set the irrigation controller to the "rain" or "off" setting.
3. Turn on each valve to release pressure from the pipes.
4. Let the water drain out of the system or have it blown out by a professional to protect your system from freezing.